

I am pleased to report that Acle Parish Council has been awarded Quality Parish Council Status and the certificate will be presented by Keith Simpson MP at the Annual Parish Meeting on 14th April. This is a recognition of the hard work and commitment shown by the councillors over the past few years and of the high standard of facilities and services provided in the village.

The Parish Council maintains the cemetery and most of the street lights, pays for the grass cutting on road verges, the hanging baskets, benches, bins, bus shelters, public conveniences and additional footway sweeping, amongst other things. The village certainly looks very attractive and well cared for. The Council also supports a range of local clubs and organisations. Donations this year were made to the Church for grass cutting, Acle Regatta, Wherry Lines Partnership, Citizens Advice Bureau, East Anglian Air Ambulance, Norfolk Accident Rescue Service, Norfolk & Norwich Blind Association, the local Royal British Legion and Acle Community Archive Group.

This year the Council also paid for the creation of some new allotment plots at Boat Dyke Lane and for the new Christmas lights along The Street. The Council recently met with local residents and businesses to discuss the County Council proposals for changes to parking restrictions in the village centre and is currently campaigning for improvements to speed management on A1064.

The Council has also joined the new Community Speedwatch Scheme whereby local volunteers take it in turns to monitor vehicle speeds on roads through Acle. People driving at speeds above the local speed limit are reported to the Police who send warning letters to the drivers. This has proved successful as a deterrent to people driving too fast through our village, and has empowered local people to do something about one of our residents' main concerns. New volunteers can find out more from Nigel Law at the Post Office.

Regular reports from our local Safer Neighbourhood Team have provided helpful information on local crimes and crime prevention and we thank the local officers for their attendance at meetings and for their assistance with local matters. The Acle SNT officers can be contacted on 0845 456 4567 or by email: sntacle@norfolk.pnn.police.uk.

Accounts for the year ended 31st March 2008 will be available from the clerk, Pauline James, once they are signed at the Annual Parish Council meeting on Monday, 19th May. The clerk can be contacted at the address below, for correspondence, information, details on planning applications and street light outages.

I should like to thank the many people who help the Council, including the eleven other councillors, Mick Ward, Lynn Kerslake (who runs the excellent village website www.acle-village.info), County Councillor Brian Iles, Acle Society and the Acle Lands Trust.

Parish Council meetings are held on the last Monday of every month, except when there is a bank holiday, when the date is moved forward by one week. There is no meeting planned for August. Meetings are held in the Methodist Church hall at 7.30 p.m., and all residents are very welcome. Details of the items to be discussed are published on the noticeboard in The Street.

Basil Tibbenham
Parish Council Chairman

April 2008